(c) the names of the States wherefrom Government are considering to export potato to meet the export order?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The State-wise export data is not maintained for any commodity. However, exports of potato are likely to take place from major potato growing States such as Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Bihar, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.

Patenting of Indian Goods/items by European countries

†2497. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the cases brought to the Government's notice wherin the European countries have got the patent of Indian goods/items and they continue to get the same;

(b) the details of the goods/items in respect of which the patent had been taken back from the European countries by India;

(c) whether it is a fact that the patent of jute from the London based firm, the Geo Hess had been taken back by the Jute Production Development Council constituted recently for the ailing jute industries of the country; and

(d) if so, the assistance which Government provide to the entrepreneurs of the country in such matters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) Patents are granted under the sovereign perrogative of countries according to their respective patent laws and have territorial effect, that is, they are effective only in the country of grant. In order to qualify for grant of patent in any country an invention, whether process or product, has to meet the criteria of patentability, namely, novelty, inventiveness and industrial applicability. Indian goods/items, which are already in public knowledge, cannot be patented.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

As patents are essentially private rights they are normally challenged by the persons (s) whose interests are affected/jeopardized. Data of patented Indian goods/items as well as patents revoked in European countries is not maintained.

However, for instance, the patent on fungicidal properties of Neem granted by the European Patent Office was successfully challenged by Non-Governmental Organizations and the patent was revoked in May 2001.

(c) and (d) The patent on waste treatment using Hessian (jute product) granted to M/S Geo Hess (UK) Ltd. has been revoked in August 2002 based on the opposition petition filed by Jute Manufacturers Development Council (JMDC) and Indian Jute Industries Research Association. JMDC renders technical assistance, if required by the entrepreneurs and the Government through its patent offices provides assistance by way of necessary information in such cases.

WTO meetings on anti-dumping

†2498. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister Of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether World Trade Organisation (W.T.O.) has held meeting during October and November, 2002 on issues related to anti-dumping and subsidy;

(b) if so, whether Government have participated in the said meetings;

(c) if so, whether Government have raised these issues in the said meetings; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) The Dona Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO) held in November, 2001 has provided for negotiations aimed at clarifying and improving disciplines under the Agreements on Anti-Dumping

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.